
**Agriculture & Natural Resources
Committee**

HB 1735

Brief Description: Prohibiting the force-feeding of birds.

Sponsors: Representatives Parshley, Leavitt, Fitzgibbon, Berg, Rude, Fosse, Shavers, Reed, Ormsby, Thai, Farivar, Hill, Scott, Bernbaum, Pollet, Macri, Ryu and Ramel.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Prohibits the act of force-feeding a bird to enlarge the liver beyond its normal size.
- Prohibits the sale, possession, transportation, or distribution of foie gras that has been produced using the practice of force-feeding.
- Establishes civil penalties.

Hearing Date: 2/7/25

Staff: Rebecca Lewis (786-7339).

Background:

Title 16 of the Revised Code of Washington contains state laws pertaining to animals and livestock, including animal and livestock health and welfare. The Department of Agriculture administers some aspects of Title 16 pertaining to raising livestock for agricultural production.

Summary of Bill:

Force-feeding a bird for the purpose of enlarging the liver beyond its normal size is prohibited. An exception is provided for force-feeding a bird to improve its health as directed by a

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veterinarian. In addition, a person may not knowingly sell, possess, transport, or distribute foie gras or any product containing foie gras that has been produced using the practice of force-feeding. Violations of either prohibition are subject to a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 for each violation, and up to \$1,000 per day each day the violation continues. Monies collected from civil penalties must be deposited in the State General Fund.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 31, 2025.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on January 1, 2028.